

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-9 are pending. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of dependent claim 2. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 2-4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,648,133 to Blaschke *et al.* (“Blaschke”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,164,166 to Stepanski (“Stepanski”) or U.S. Pat. No. 4,678,698 to Mencke (“Mencke”). Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2, which the Examiner has stated is allowable. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn for at least this reason. Claims 5 and 7-9 dependent directly or indirectly on independent claim 1, and therefore the rejections of claims 5 and 7-9 should be withdrawn for at least the same reason that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that claims 1 and 3-9 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner not agree with any of Applicants' positions or arguments herein, a telephonic or personal interview is respectfully requested to discuss and resolve any remaining issues.

No fee is believed due for this response. Should any fee(s) be due at this time, please charge such fee(s) to Jones Day Deposit Acct. No. 503013.

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Respectfully submitted,



58,442

Kenneth Canfield

(Reg. No.)

For: Gidon D. Stern

(Reg. No. 27,469)

JONES DAY

222 East 41st Street

New York, New York 10017

(212) 326-3939